

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07  
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 /076 R

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APPROVED BY ACDA/ISP:JNEWHOUSE  
PM:WVEALE

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O R 120034Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 008272

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA DISCUSSION

REFS: A. BONN 434 (DTG 101542Z JAN 78), B. MBFR VIENNA 700  
(DTG 151853Z DEC 77)

1. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM VAN WELL, VON PFETTEN (FRG EMBASSY) CALLED ON ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NEWHOUSE TO PRESENT FRG VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS IN DATA DISCUSSION.
2. VON PFETTEN SAID THAT FRG HAS AN INTEREST IN MOVING FORWARD WITH A DATA DISCUSSION TO AVOID STAGNATION IN THE  
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VIENNA TALKS AND TO MOVE AHEAD WITH NATO'S MBFR INITIATIVE.

3. THE FRG BELIEVES, HE SAID, THAT THE AHG SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH THE EAST TO SUGGEST A "PRAGMATIC" APPROACH AVOIDING THE EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS AS ENVISIONED IN THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN PROPOSAL. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC FEELS THAT AN EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS WOULD NOT BENEFIT

EITHER SIDE SINCE THE FREEDOM TO ASK QUESTIONS CANNOT BE RESTRICTED IN THE FUTURE. MOREOVER, THE CATEGORIES OF DATA TO BE EXCHANGED HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED BY THE EAST AND WEST AND THUS THE EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS WOULD BE "SUPERFLUOUS."

4. IF THE EAST INSISTS ON AN EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS, CONTINUED VON PFETTEN, THE FRG WOULD INSIST THAT THE TEXTS BE MODIFIED IN SEVERAL PLACES. THE MAIN GERMAN OBJECTION IS DIRECTED AT THE "PERCEPTABLE TENDENCY" OF THE TEXTS TO GIVE DATA DISAGGREGATION A NATIONAL CHARACTER. NONETHELESS, THE GERMANS ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A UNILATERAL REFERENCE IN THE EAST'S STATEMENT TO ITS PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 25, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING WESTERN UNDERSTANDING FOR THE APPARENT EASTERN NEED FOR A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THAT EASTERN PROPOSAL.

5. ALTHOUGH THE FRG IS READY TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN STATEMENT WITH ITS UNILATERAL REFERENCE TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 25, "UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES" CAN THE GERMANS ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH ANY POSSIBLE IMPLICATION THAT THE WEST'S "REACTION" TO THE OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL--WITH ITS IMPLICIT REFERENCE TO EACH COUNTRY--CAN BECOME THE MAIN FOCUS FOR THE DATA DISCUSSION. IN ESSENCE, SAID VON PFETTEN, THE TEXTS ARE TOO CLOSE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONAL DISAGGREGATION ALREADY REJECTED BY NATO. MOREOVER,  
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ADDED VON PFETTEN, THE GERMANS HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE INTENT OF THE EAST. THE GERMANS SEE A CONTINUAL HARDENING OF THE EASTERN POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL DISAGGREGATION OVER THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER-DECEMBER LAST YEAR. THEY INTERPRET THIS AS AN EASTERN ATTEMPT TO REESTABLISH THE EARLIER EASTERN POSITION ON NATIONAL DATA THAT SEEMINGLY HAD BEEN ABANDONED.

6. FOR THIS REASON, VON PFETTEN SAID, THE GERMANS CANNOT AGREE TO WESTERN STATEMENT IMPLYING THAT THE WEST ACCEPTS THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF OCTOBER 25. FURTHERMORE, THE GERMANS WANT ALL REFERENCES IN THE TEXTS TO "EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT" REPLACED BY EITHER "ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS" OR "THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS." THIS WILL AVOID, SAID VON PFETTEN, ANY REFERENCE--DIRECT OR IMPLIED--TO NATIONAL DATA. IN OPERATIONAL TERMS, VON PFETTEN SAID THAT THESE CONCERNS SUGGEST THAT THE WESTERN STATEMENT SHOULD BE REPHRASED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AGREE WITH THE CITED PROPOSALS. THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS ARE PREPARED TO EXCHANGE DATA ON THE GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL IN MAJOR FORMATIONS OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CANADA AND LUXEMBOURG (COMMENT: WHICH HAVE NO SUCH

FORMATIONS), AND ON THE GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THOSE IN MAJOR FORMATIONS. WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL PRESENT A SINGLE FIGURE FOR THEIR GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MULTILATERAL HEADQUARTERS. IN ADDITION, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD EXCHANGE OVERALL FIGURES FOR THE GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN MAJOR FORMATIONS AND A SECOND OVERALL

FIGURE FOR OTHER GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. AS TO AIR FORCE MANPOWER DATA, WE ARE PREPARED TO PRESENT FIGURES FOR THE PERSONNEL IN MAJOR FORMATIONS, THAT IS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO TACTICAL AIR COMMANDS AND TO TACTICAL AIR FORCES, AND REMAINING PERSONNEL OF THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS EXCEPT FOR CANADA FOR WHICH  
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ONLY ONE FIGURE WILL BE PRESENTED SINCE IT DOES NOT HAVE MAJOR FORMATIONS IN THE AREA, AND LUXEMBOURG WHICH DOES NOT HAVE AN AIR FORCE. IN ADDITION, THE WEST WILL PRESENT A SINGLE FIGURE FOR THE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL OF WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ASSIGNED TO MULTILATERAL HEADQUARTERS. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD PRESENT A SINGLE FIGURE FOR THE AIR FORCE MANPOWER OF ALL EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS." THE REMAINDER OF THE TEXT IN PARA 2 OF REF B WOULD STAY THE SAME.

7. CONCERNING THE EASTERN RESPONSE STATEMENT (PARA 3, REF B), THE GERMANS ARE PREPARED "TO SOFTEN" THE BEGINNING OF THAT STATEMENT BY SUBSTITUTING "ARE PREPARED" FOR "AGREE TO THE WESTERN SUGGESTION." THEY WOULD REWRITE THE SECOND SENTENCE TO SAY "WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE THE DATA OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER, THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE CAREFULLY STUDIED AND A REPLY TO IT WILL BE MADE SUBSEQUENTLY." IN ORDER TO DELETE ANOTHER EASTERN REFERENCE TO THE OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL, THE GERMANS BELIEVE THE THIRD SENTENCE OF THAT EASTERN STATEMENT SHOULD END WITH THE PHRASE "...THE FOLLOWING FIGURES:" DROPPING THE LANGUAGE "SPECIFIED IN THE...MADE IN THE PRESENT SESSION:"

8. IN PARAS C AND D OF THAT EASTERN STATEMENT, THE PHRASE "EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT" SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH "ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS."

9. FINALLY, VON PFETTEN SAID THAT THE GERMANS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A GENERAL DISCLAIMER IS NECESSARY ALONG THE LINES OF THE TEXT AGREED TO BY THE SOVIET AND US REPS ON DECEMBER 1: "IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS EXCHANGE IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE OVERALL POSITIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND IS WITHOUT PRECONDITION FOR FURTHER  
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DISCUSSIONS."

10. NEWHOUSE TOLD VON PFETTEN THAT WE WOULD TAKE THESE  
GERMAN VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT AS WE EXAMINE THE US APPROACH TO  
THE ISSUE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PARM, NATO, MBFR  
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